

Maine Farmer.

Fair Calendar, 1879.

Societies will confer a favor by notifying us of the date of holding Town and County Fairs. Maine State Fair at Farmington, August 10-15. Portland Fair, August 15-18. Bangor Fair, August 18-21. Waterville Fair, August 21-24. Calais Fair, August 24-27. Grand Rapids Fair, August 27-30. Ellsworth Fair, August 30-September 2. Caribou Fair, September 2-5. Calais Fair, September 5-8. Ellsworth Fair, September 8-11. Grand Rapids Fair, September 11-14. Waterville Fair, September 14-17. Bangor Fair, September 17-20. Portland Fair, September 20-23. Farmington Fair, September 23-26. Maine State Fair, September 26-29.

Rotation of Crops.

In the recently settled portions of the State, notably in Aroostook county where all the elements of fertility exist in great abundance in the soil, there is not that special need of rotation of crops that there is in old soils that require constant dressing of the soil with manure, or the use of the "poult" of lime, silica and other essential ingredients that are drawn from the soil by a single crop of wheat, we easily understand that no soil, however well supplied it may be with these essential substances, can without fertilizing produce many successive crops of the same kind. In places where the soil is devoted to falling trees, clearing up land and preparing it for cultivation, but after two or three crops have been taken off, the inquiry arises, how shall the land be cultivated so as to yield the greatest amount of net proceeds for a number of years in succession?

Of course the first requisite is the application of a proper amount of fertilizing material, and the second is of almost equal importance, a proper rotation of crops. We will remember the time, when Agricultural Chemistry was little understood by any one, and not at all by the farmer, when it was a common thing for farmers to attempt to grow the same kind of crop on the same field for several years in succession, and then wonder why after two or three years, the crop would be a partial or complete failure, according to the original quality of the soil. We have heard old farmers gravely observe that "after two or three crops of the land dried out, and the soil was exhausted enough, but drawn from no scientific principle of what they had any knowledge. This gave rise to the fallow system of restoring the productiveness of an exhausted field, and this did restore it in a certain degree, because the effect of the air, sunshine and rain was to restore the soil and decompose these fertilizing substances which had previously remained inert. But this was an expensive method of restoring fertility, because the process was slow and in the meantime, the land was unproductive. The application of the proper fertilizers has been found to be better and in the end, cheaper, and a judicious rotation of crops is a valuable adjunct in keeping the soil from running out.

Different plants are composed of different elements, or have different proportions of the same element, and as most of their food is received from the soil, they exhaust the soil in widely different degrees. And when the soil is exhausted of a substance which a certain plant requires to develop it, the crop cannot produce such plant, and the crop is a failure; while another plant which does not require the exhausted substance, or in less proportion might flourish abundantly. Here we have, in brief, one of the principal reasons, and of itself a conclusive one, why crops should be rotated. Some crops are called very exhausting because they appropriate large quantities of the substances essential to their growth and development. Such are tobacco, hops and corn. As it is not convenient to rotate with hops, it becomes necessary to apply fertilizers every year in order to secure a crop. It is not that the growth of one variety of crop prepares the soil for a different crop, and to realize the greatest good from the application of manure, crops should succeed each other in the order of their dissimilarity. It should be constantly borne in mind that the longer the time between two similar crops upon the same field, the better will the soil be prepared to supply the substances essential to their growth and development, and the better will be the crop. There is another advantage in the rotation of crops which is too often overlooked. All plants have enemies peculiar to them, and the greater the consequent damage, will be greater when they find the same crop growing upon the same field year after year. Rotation will lessen the damage and sometimes altogether remove the pest.

Rotation should be systematic, and as systematic as the nature of the soil and the business as it is in any given case. Rotation gives a proper variety to our farm productions. It recommends a more particular attention to the root crop which is a very important item in a system of good husbandry. It eradicates all noxious weeds because in time, it brings the cultivator and hoe in contact with every part of the farm. In short, rotation is crops is everywhere and at all times essential to successful farming, and a neglect of it betrays either ignorance or sloth, both of which are among the most prolific sources of failure in agriculture.

Seasonable Hints.

The lateness of the season and the recent protracted rains have brought much of the wheat and barley over into July. Corn has generally been hoed once and some potato fields have been cultivated and hoed over, but the long rains have been more favorable to the growth of weeds than to the growth of the crops, and the farmer is by no means over. We hope our brother farmers are everywhere waging a war of extermination against the potato bug. Scatter the Paris green without stint, and have no fears of any injurious result either to the tuber or to anything else except the bug, provided it is handled with the care. It is but little use to try to exterminate them by hand, for the task is too arduous. The field that is cleared of them today may be infested by another brood to-morrow. Paris green can be applied to large fields in a comparatively short time, and then the work is done up for the season. Farmers should not give up the potato and plow up their potato fields. The crop is of too much importance to be yielded without a struggle, and the indications are that the days of the pest are numbered. Parasitic enemies multiply and in many places have already proved too potent for the bug. Let us persevere and save the crop this

OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

Augusta, Maine, Saturday Morning, July 5, 1879.

TERMS: Two Dollars in Advance.

Woman's Department.

A Few Remarks for Laura's Benefit.

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